



Central Saanich joins movement to have cats spayed or neutered

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Cats will have to be spayed or neutered in Central Saanich, the second municipality to agree to a bylaw requiring felines to be fixed.

The actual bylaw likely won't be in effect until later in the summer, as municipal staff have to draft it and get it back to council for ratification. But the politicians were all in favour of having the bylaw drawn up, which means it's virtually a sure thing.

"We're very happy another municipality has agreed to this," Val Boswell said yesterday. Boswell is chairwoman of the spay/neuter bylaw action committee, a group that wants the entire regional district to implement the bylaw in hopes of reducing the abandoned cat population.

North Saanich has also agreed to the bylaw, and is drafting the wording. Both municipalities have agreed that public education will be a large part of the process.

Although it's difficult to put a number on the cats abandoned, they say it's reached crisis proportions. The SPCA is doubling its cat area because of the influx of cats, and volunteer homes in the community are overrun. The No.1 killer of cats in North America is homelessness, she said, so the only responsible thing to do for them is to try to control their population.

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